

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08
ARA-06 /117 W

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R 071010Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4490
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, CH, XF, XJ

SUBJECT: FRG OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON GERMAN POLICY IN
THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND CHINA

BEGIN SUMMARY: A SENIOR GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT GENSCHER'S IMPENDING PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE LARGELY INTENDED TO PREVENT A WORSENING OF THE CLIMATE THERE DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, BUT THAT THE GERMANS DO NOT NOW HAVE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO MAKE. HE OFFERED LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THE FRG COULD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE ZIMBABWE FUND, NOTING THAT THE FOREIGN AID BUDGET OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE SEVERELY CONSTRICTED. HE SAID THE FRG WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, THOUGH IT HAD NO POSITIVE RESPONSE TO DATE, AND WOULD FACE DIFFICULT ISSUES IN NAMIBIA. HE ALSO SAID THE FRG WAS HOPING TO INCREASE ITS TRADE WITH CHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. LOTHAR LAHN, THE MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, AFRICA AND THE NEAR EAST IN THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS DURING A MEETING WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR:

THE MIDDLE EAST

--GENSCHER'S DECISION TO LAUNCH A NEW MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE (REF BONN 137) GROWS PRIMARILY OUT OF GENSCHER'S CONCERN THAT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS COULD SEE A HIATUS IN THE PEACE EFFORTS FOR THAT AREA. GENSCHER BELIEVES THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION MIGHT NEED SOME TIME TO DEVELOP ITS POLICIES, AND THAT ISRAEL MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MODERATE ITS OWN IDEAS PRIOR TO THE MAY ELECTION.

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GENSCHER, THEREFORE, IS INITIATING A SERIES OF VISITS INTENDED TO OFFER CHANCES FOR CONSULTATION.

--GENSCHER AT THIS POINT HAS NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO OFFER. HE MIGHT DEVELOP SOME AS HIS VISITS PROGRESS. HE WILL START WITH VISITS TO SYRIA AND JORDAN BETWEEN FEBRUARY 8 AND 12, 1977, AND WILL THEN VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AFTER RETURNING TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT TO DO NEXT. UPON HIS RETURN WITH GENSCHER ON FEBRUARY 12, LAHN WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH US TO REPORT WHAT GENSCHER HAS LEARNED AND TO CONSULT ON WHERE WE MIGHT GO FROM HERE.

ANGOLA

--THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAS STILL NOT RESPONDED TO FRG OVERTURES FOR ESTABLISHING RELATIONS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHEN THE ANGOLANS MIGHT RESPOND. LAHN IS PREPARED TO GO THERE ON SHORT NOTICE IN ORDER TO WORK OUT AN AGREE-

MENT.

--AGOSTINO NETO MAY HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT THE
FRG DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE NEW STATE AS SOON AS IT WAS
ANNOUNCED. NETO, WHO WAS A NEIGHBOR OF THE GERMAN
CONSUL, USED TO TELL THAT CONSUL "YOU WILL BE THE
AMBASSADOR AND WE WILL WORK TOGETHER." WHAT TROUBLES
THE FRG MOST ABOUT THE DELAY IN ITS OWN ACCREDITATION IS

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THAT THE GDR IS FULLY REPRESENTED IN ANGOLA AND IS
APPARENTLY QUITE ACTIVE POLITICALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY
(THOUGH NOT MILITARILY).

--ACCORDING TO GERMAN INFORMATION, THE CUBANS REMAIN
IN ANGOLA AND THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THEY WILL
LEAVE. THEY STILL PROVIDE SOME SECURITY FUNCTIONS BUT
THEY ARE NOW CONCENTRATING HEAVILY ON ASSISTING IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT APPARATUS AND OF
THE ECONOMY. TO THE BEST OF LAHN'S KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE
NOT FIGHTING IN OTHER AFRICAN GUERRILLA WARS BUT THEY
MAY BE ADVISING NATIONALIST FORCES.

NAMIBIA

--THE GERMANS UNDERSTAND THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS PLAN-
NING WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO INSTALL AN INTERIM
GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA. THAT GOVERNMENT IS TO BE FORMED
BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE. THE SOUTH
AFRICANS ARE HOPING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL GAIN SOME
INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. FOR THE GERMANS, THIS WILL
PRESENT A MAJOR PROBLEM. IF THEY DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE
NEW GOVERNMENT, THEY WILL LOSE CONTACT WITH THE 20-25,000
GERMAN NATIONALS IN NAMIBIA. IF THEY DO RECOGNIZE IT,
THEY WILL BE OSTRACIZED IF AND WHEN THE SWAPO COMES TO
POWER.

THIRD WORLD AID IN THE NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT

--PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT FRG BUDGET FUNDS
FOR DEVELOPMENT AID WILL BE INADEQUATE ARE CORRECT. THE
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TOTAL, THOUGH ABOVE DM 3 BILLION, WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WITH MUCH FLEXIBILITY IN USING FUNDS FOR AID. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TRIED TO GET MORE BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY.

THE ZIMBABWE FUND

--THE SHORTAGE OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT FUNDS MEANS THAT THE FRG WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ZIMBABWE FUND. MOREOVER, THE FRG REGARDS THIS PROPOSAL WITH SOME RESERVATIONS BECAUSE OF THE PRECEDENT THAT IT MIGHT SET (REF BONN 268).

--THE FRG IS THINKING ABOUT OFFERING A COUNTER PROPOSAL TO THE EFFECT THAT A NUMBER OF NATIONS-- BASICALLY THOSE ENVISAGED IN THE ZIMBABWE FUND PROPOSAL-- WOULD MAKE A JOINT COMMITMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WOULD PROVIDE DEVELOPMENT AID ONCE A POLITICAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. THIS WOULD MAINTAIN THE COMMITMENT AND WOULD MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE, BUT WOULD NOT REQUIRE THE FRG TO PUT UP ANY MONEY RIGHT NOW.

CHINA

--LAHN VISITED CHINA IN EARLY DECEMBER AS HEAD OF A DELEGATION OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN (BONN 20948, L976). HE, LIKE OTHERS WITH SOME EXPERIENCE IN CHINA AFFAIRS, WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PRAGMATIC AND OPEN ATTITUDE SHOWN BY THEIR CHINESE INTERLOCUTORS. THEY ALL SENSED A CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE FROM THAT OF THE MAO DAYS. THEIR CHINESE

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HOSTS OPENLY SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A GREAT

INCREASE IN TRADE WITH THE WEST THOUGH THE COMMITMENT TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY WOULD NOT BE ABANDONED. THE CHINESE ALSO INDICATED GREATER STRESS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

--THE GERMAN GROUP WAS TAKEN TO SHANGHAI, AMONG OTHER PLACES, WHERE THEY WERE STRUCK BY THE OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF WALL POSTERS THAT SEEMED TO CHANGE EVERY NIGHT. THE WALL POSTERS APPEARED TO COVER EVERY BUILDING, INCLUDING PRIVATE HOMES. MANY WERE IN THE FORM OF CARTOONS, AND THEY APPEARED TO OFFER CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND AMUSEMENT TO THE POPULATION. THEIR CHINESE HOSTS TOLD THE GERMANS THAT THESE POSTERS WERE CREATED AS A RESULT OF LOCAL INITIATIVE, WHICH THE GERMANS BELIEVE MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE AT LEAST IN PART SINCE THE POSTERS VARIED FROM PLACE TO PLACE THOUGH THEIR THEME (AGAINST "THE FOUR") REMAINED CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT.

--THOUGH GERMAN EXPORTS TO CHINA FAR EXCEED IMPORTS, PAYMENTS REMAIN IN BALANCE BECAUSE THE CHINESE USE THEIR FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROFITS FROM THE HONG KONG TRADE IN ORDER TO KEEP THEIR FOREIGN ACCOUNTS EVEN. THE GERMANS ENCOURAGED THE CHINESE TO SELL MORE IN GERMANY IN ORDER TO TRY TO BALANCE THE TRADE. THE CHINESE APPEARED INTERESTED BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR EXACTLY HOW THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS.
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Message Attributes

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